

WITH THE COLLEGE ATHLETES

DOINGS IN THE FIELD OF SPORT IN EAST AND WEST.

College Champion Athletes of Both Sections Compared and Result of a Dual Meet for National Honors Forecasted—East Should Be a Winner—Other News.

The wind-up of the intercollegiate track athletic season in the United States came with the recent running of the championships of the Western Conference Intercollegiate meet at Marshall Field. For the first time almost since the conference was established, and certainly for the first time in six years, the Michigan track team was forced to yield the point honors to Chicago. It was a meet filled with notable performances, but the result had been pretty well foreshadowed by the Chicago-Michigan dual meet a short time before, in which Chicago won. One of the chief points of interest to Easterners in the result of the comparison of performances of the athletes of the East and West. This year for the first time there has been serious consideration of a proposition for a dual meet between the champions of the East and West, with the idea of settling the question of supremacy between the two sections in this branch of sport. The first move was made this year to late to arrange a meet for 1905, but there is a good chance that the authorities of both sections may get together in good season next year and try to fix up an agreement. Pennsylvania and Harvard are in the field already, and both have offered their athletic grounds for such a meet. College men of both sections are only too eager to see such an event.

How a contest between the place winners in both meets would have resulted this year is not so very problematical. There are several points of disagreement. For instance, in the West the discus throw is an important feature, while it is entirely disregarded by the Easterners. Would it be fair to drop this and give the advantage of an event to the East? This is one of the questions that the committee would have to take up. In the Western meet, three places only count for points, while in the East four places figure. It would probably be decided to have two men or three men from each section start in the events, but count only first places, as in the international meets.

Comparisons on time performances strictly are valuable to a degree only. For instance, take the case of Schick, the Harvard runner. In the games this year he did only 10-15 seconds for the two mile run, and the same for the 100 yard dash. It is considered that he is far above that form when it is necessary for him to be so. In the Eastern intercollegiate he was just good enough to beat his field. Still, on time records, both the sprints would have to be conceded to the Westerners. Blair of Chicago won the shorter dash in even time, while a performance of 22 seconds was credited to Hogan of the West. In the 100 yard dash, to many minds, it is just an open question whether Schick, even in his best form, could win both sprints against the West. It is almost a certainty that he could do under 10 seconds in the hundred, and that would beat Blair or Hogan.

But in the 200 yard dash he would find trouble in beating Hogan, who saw the big follow sprint at St. Louis last summer, and who has equaled the consistent way in which he equaled or bettered 22 seconds right along, are inclined to fancy him greatly. He runs exactly on the Schick plan, always having a reserve left for the last fifty yards, although apparently he is in the lead from the start. It is not unfair to Schick to say that a dual meet between the two sections should find, on this year's performances, that the points are split.

The East would, with almost absolute certainty, take the quarter mile run. Hyman, the Pennsylvania, who has impressed greatly on the minds of the Ohio State University to enter the U. S. gave a masterly exhibition in the quarter, winning 14-25 seconds. He was just a fifth behind the performance of John B. Taylor, the colored lad from the Philadelphia institution, who made the new record last year. Hyman is a fast man for 200 yards, as his race with Schick, after the 40 yard run, was over. He has a greater initial speed than Waller or Gromer, the Westerners. Waller won the quarter by four yards in 50 seconds flat. Hyman beat Dives of Harvard a yard in faster time. Presumably here the East would have the advantage.

The half mile and mile are events which both sides will claim with all their might. The East has Parsons, the record holder, who won the year in 1 minute 50 seconds after doing almost all his own plying, and finishing in the lead by 7 yards. Lightbody of Chicago won the half mile in his meet in 1 minute 57-2-5 seconds, breaking the Conference record after a fairly hard struggle. But Lightbody had previously run the mile in 4 minutes 15 seconds, and all the Western records by 4-2-5 seconds. This was a performance better by 1-5 of a second than that of Munson, who won the Eastern mile, and both men won with about equal ease. It is almost certain that Lightbody could not beat Parsons after having run a mile before, and it is doubtful whether he could beat Munson in the mile. But his chance of defeating the Connecticut runner is pretty good at that, and it would be only the part of fairness to give so wonderful a runner as Lightbody the preference in the mile, while giving to Parsons the victory in the shorter distance.

Easterners have had a chance to see Lightbody perform in this city, although his chances were not so entirely flattering to his reputation. Lightbody last year won the Olympic championships at 800 meters, 1,500 meters and 2,500 meters. He was invited to come to New York to compete in the 1,000 yard indoor championship at the Pastime A. C. games in Madison Square Garden, Dec. 31, 1903. Lightbody was one of a field of seven, who faced the starter. Pace was set for a time by Christoffers, now of the New York A. C., and Sanford of the Central Y. M. C. A. For two laps and a half Lightbody was content to run along trailing. Presently he began to move up, and two laps from home, on the lap track, he started a sprint. Half-mile of the Irish-American A. C. the half-mile metropolitan champion, set sail after the Westerner, and the pair had a gallant race of it. Going down the backstretch Bacon collapsed the Olympic champion and raced him down around the turn. The New Yorker led over the line by five yards, Lightbody falling so in the stretch that he was beaten by Bligden of the New York A. C., who came along too late with a sprint, which with better judgment might have won for him. Lightbody had trouble to be third. Christoffers pressing him hard. The time was nothing remarkable, being 2 minutes 22 seconds. Lightbody afterward started from scratch in the two mile handicap in company with George Bonhag, but retired after being troubled about a mile and a quarter, being troubled with a cramp in his side. Up to that time he had fallen absolutely to hold Bonhag, and had fallen nearly twenty yards to the rear of the indoor champion. The race was run in 9 minutes 41-5 seconds, and Bonhag finished fourth. Apparently, the performance of Lightbody indoors and outdoors since, he was in unfortunately bad condition on the date of the Pastime meet.

In the two-mile event in the proposed intercollegiate meet there would be more than a little difficulty in choosing a winner. The East has Hall of Yale and the West has Rowley of Michigan. Both are men who can do close to 10 minutes 15 seconds, although they did not run so fast in the intercollegiate games. Whatever advantage of time performance there may be rests with Rowe, who did 9 minutes 50 seconds, while Hall was three-fifths of a second slower. On the other hand, Rowe and two other fast men, Stone and Lyon, made a staggering finish of all being in the high but from home. Rowe according to reliable report, was all out to win by a yard, with the other two men close up that a three yard blanket would have done the proverbial trick. Hall won his race by a long sustained sprint, going out after Willgoose of Cornell when the latter tried to make a runaway of things at the start of the final lap. Presumably Hall is the stronger man. His performance in the intercollegiate cross-country meet, where he has twice finished in third place, stamp him as a sturdy runner and the recent two mile race shows his speed. It would be a close thing, and were the meet otherwise so close as to need it, the East would be allowed the point. As it is, it would be better simply to divide.

The East has a right to the high hurdle event, in which Amster in his present form has every right to defeat Catlin of Chicago, regardless of the results of the special races in the Pennsylvania relay games. Amster won in the intercollegiate in 13-3-5 seconds, which is a lock on the event. His racing performance of recent times. It shows him to be a worthy successor of his college mate Kraenzlin. He won the high hurdle of a second better under the whip. In the low hurdles, too, the East might well expect to get the point. West, George, the weight-throwing phenomenon, who also is a hurdler, won his event in 25 1-5 seconds, after a good fight with Catlin of Chicago. Frank Johnson of Columbia, the national 120-yard hurdle champion, proved to be the best man in this year's intercollegiate meeting in the East, and produced the good time of 21 seconds in the event. That should be good enough to win for him.

The field events are likely to prove even more an interesting feature of the meet. The vault of Dray of Yale, who made 41 feet 10 inches in a try for the record, is just enough over the 41 feet 9 inches in his best jump. He is a tall, thin, wiry fellow, who did for first, to give the East the preference. There is another thing to be considered. Dray won the vault in the Eastern meet at 41 feet 3 inches, but for the record he had the bar put up to the next height and cleared it at the first trial. The Westerners, who did at the lesser height, probably did it at least six trials to clear it. Therefore they are decidedly less able vaulters than Dray, under the evidence of the rules of competition.

In the broad jump Symonds of Princeton won with a leap of 23 feet 2 1/2 inches. His Western opponent did 23 feet 8 1/2 inches, which not only was a yard better, but also a yard better than the standard of broad jumping in the West is not as high as in the East. In the high jump Marshall of Yale won with a leap of 6 feet. The Westerner's best was 5 feet 10 1/2 inches, by Barker of Iowa. In the shot put every one of the four place men in the Eastern championship sent the missile further than did the Western champion. Porter of Cornell won with 45 feet 3 inches. Dunlap of Michigan did 41 feet 1 1/2 inches. Rowley of Yale won with 41 feet 3 inches. Philadelphia did 41 feet 3 inches.

It is only in the hammer throw in the five field events that the Westerners did well. Percy of Chicago won the title with a throw of 156 feet 3 inches, as against Van Duxon of Syracuse, who did 140 feet 11 inches. In fact, the two Westerners did not make an all made better throw than did Van Duxon, reversing the situation in the shot put.

In the field events, perfect fairness is maintained. The Easterners did well in the final total to East, 95, West, 33. The discus throw, if added to the program, would give the West another point for John Gromer, the champion in the West, and did well in the field, breaking all previous records for the world. But even should the discus throw be added it cannot be expected that the Easterners would consent to having a relay race on the program too. This is another thing with which the Westerners wind up their season in the championship.

Critics may say that both sprints should be conceded to the West, as the time performances were faster there. On that point the East would still have a field of points the better. Taking all cases of time performance as absolute indications of superiority would give the East 40 yard run, 100 yard run and two hurdles. The West would take the 100 and 200 yard runs, the mile and two miles. It would be 4 to 4 in the field events, and 10 to 10 in the field events were counted. Even putting both in the discus and the relay race and giving both to the West, the score would be 8 to 7 in favor of the Easterners. Lightbody of Chicago won the half mile in his meet in 1 minute 57-2-5 seconds, breaking the Conference record after a fairly hard struggle. But Lightbody had previously run the mile in 4 minutes 15 seconds, and all the Western records by 4-2-5 seconds. This was a performance better by 1-5 of a second than that of Munson, who won the Eastern mile, and both men won with about equal ease. It is almost certain that Lightbody could not beat Parsons after having run a mile before, and it is doubtful whether he could beat Munson in the mile. But his chance of defeating the Connecticut runner is pretty good at that, and it would be only the part of fairness to give so wonderful a runner as Lightbody the preference in the mile, while giving to Parsons the victory in the shorter distance.

It may be said that now that the Westerners never will be willing to admit this, they will be able to produce figures and statistics on their side to prove the reverse. The one way to settle this question, and the thing that every collegian and every person interested in intercollegiate athletics would like to see, is a meet between the two sections. Not even an international meeting could be as attractive as that of the question of comparative superiority of the East and West. Collegians ever since Michigan ran up its first score of 10 points in football, will never be satisfied until the East and West meet in regular competition of one champion against another.

The Western Conference board has made an important ruling, which concerns eligibility of athletes. Hereafter the final decision as to the right of a man to participate in the intercollegiate meet is referred to be decided by a committee of the Conference and not by his own college. The committee was appointed for a term of three years, after its organization over the proposition which lasted for nearly six hours. Chicago, Michigan and Wisconsin were opposed to the plan. In the face of this fact, it is interesting to note that the following men were chosen as the eligibility committee: A. G. Smith of Iowa, M. W. Sampson of Indiana, and O. M. Long of Northwestern. Chicago, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Purdue, Nebraska, Notre Dame and Saperstein are among the colleges which are members of the four Eastern colleges, once known as the "Big Four," two of the track team consist of four hurdles and two are short distance runners. John M. Carter, 90, Yale's leader, and E. S. Amster, 96, leader of the Pennsylvania, came west for the first time to the intercollegiate meet, while Amster won the high hurdle event and was second in the low hurdles. Amster and Lyon, the Cornell hurdler, were last July the international champions, defeating Long and Barclay in a great style and running well under fifty seconds. His performance was the surprise of the meet. This year he won the 100 yard dual meet, winning his "H." Last year he was second to Haigh in the dual meet and finished third in the intercollegiate at Taylor and Long, there being a remarkably close decision as between him and Long. Dives ran a splendid race last July in the international, finishing, defeating Long and Barclay in a great style and running well under fifty seconds. His performance was the surprise of the meet. This year he won the 100 yard dual meet, winning his "H." 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